

REMARKS

Applicants have added claim 21, which recites a ground ring configuration as shown in Fig. 6 and described at least at paragraph [0040] of applicants' specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) on Bond (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,156). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "providing a ground ring on an inside of the cavity, the ground ring comprising, a first ground ring portion, accessible from the first surface of the substrate, a second ground ring portion, accessible from the second surface of the substrate, and a ground ring trace portion, to electrically connect the first ground ring portion to the second ground ring portion," as shown in Fig. 6 and described at least at paragraph [0040] of applicants' specification. Bond does not disclose or suggest such features, nor has the Examiner asserted that such features are disclosed by Bond. Bond does not provide any suggestion related to a ground ring. Accordingly, claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 12 also stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Higgins III (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,377), in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,028,358) and Wagner (U.S. Patent No. 5,309,322). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, disclose a ground ring configuration as recited in claim 12. Accordingly, claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Higgins III, in view of Suzuki, Wagner and Jamieson (U.S. Patent No. 6,060,777), and on Bond in view of Jamieson. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Jamieson fails to overcome the deficiencies of the references cited in the rejections of claim 12. Jamieson does not disclose or suggest the ground ring configuration recited in claim 12. Accordingly, claim 14, which depends from allowable claim 12, is allowable.

Claims 15-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Higgins III, in view of Suzuki, Wagner and Li (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,621), and on Bond in view of Li. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claim 15 to recite the features of the previous claim 12. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has conceded that neither the combination of Higgins III, Suzuki and Wagner, nor Bond discloses “mounting a die adapter to said semiconductor die,” as recited in claim 15. The Examiner has instead relied on Li as disclosing this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree. Li discloses mounting a “tapered heat conductive block 20 ... made of metal” (col. 2, lines 28-29). This heat conductive block is merely a heat sink, and is not a die adapter as would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. A solid block of metal is not suitable for use as a die adapter. Accordingly, claim 15 is allowable. Claims 16, 18 and 19 depend from claim 15 and are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies. Because Li fails to overcome the deficiencies of the references cited in the rejections of claim 12, as detailed above, claim 17, which depends from allowable claim 12, is allowable due at least to its dependency.

Applicants solicit an early action allowing the claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **618902002110**.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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